



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 4

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

Citations Affected: Articles 4 and 5 of the Indiana Constitution.

Synopsis: Supermajority requirement for tax increases. Provides that a bill to increase state taxes or impose a new state tax may not become law unless: (1) the bill is approved by a two-thirds majority vote in each house of the general assembly; or (2) the tax increase or new tax is approved in a statewide referendum. This proposed amendment has not been previously agreed to by a general assembly.

Effective: This proposed amendment must be agreed to by two consecutive general assemblies and ratified by a majority of the state's voters voting on the question to be effective.

Frizzell

January 5, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

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Introduced

First Regular Session 117th General Assembly (2011)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2010 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 4

A JOINT RESOLUTION proposing an amendment to Articles 4 and 5 of the Indiana Constitution concerning the general assembly.

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. The following amendments to the Constitution of the
2 State of Indiana are proposed and agreed to by this, the One Hundred
3 Seventeenth General Assembly of the State of Indiana, and are referred
4 to the next General Assembly for reconsideration and agreement.

5 SECTION 2. ARTICLE 4, SECTION 25 OF THE CONSTITUTION
6 OF THE STATE OF INDIANA IS AMENDED TO READ AS
7 FOLLOWS: Section 25. **(a) Except as provided in subsection (b)**, a
8 majority of all the members elected to each House shall be necessary
9 to pass every bill or joint resolution. ~~and~~ All bills and joint resolutions
10 ~~so~~ passed **under this subsection or subsection (b)** shall be signed by
11 the Presiding Officers of the respective Houses.

12 **(b) A bill that increases state tax rates or establishes a new state**
13 **tax may not become law unless:**



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(1) at least two-thirds of the members elected to each House:

(A) declare that an emergency exists; and

(B) vote to approve the bill; or

(2) a majority of the persons voting in a statewide referendum approve the tax increase or new tax.

SECTION 3. ARTICLE 5, SECTION 14 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF INDIANA IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: Section 14. (a) Every bill which shall have passed the General Assembly shall be presented to the Governor. The Governor shall have seven days after the day of presentment to act upon such bill as follows:

(1) ~~He~~ **The Governor** may sign it, in which event it shall become a law.

(2) ~~He~~ **The Governor** may veto it:

(A) In the event of a veto while the General Assembly is in session, ~~he~~ **the Governor** shall return such bill, with his objections, within seven days of presentment, to the House in which it originated. If the Governor does not return the bill within seven days of presentment, the bill becomes a law notwithstanding the veto.

(B) If the Governor returns the bill under clause (A), the House in which the bill originated shall enter the Governor's objections at large upon its journals and proceed to reconsider and vote upon whether to approve the bill. The bill must be reconsidered and voted upon within the time set out in clause (C). If, after such reconsideration and vote, a majority of all the members elected to that House shall approve the bill, it shall be sent, with the Governor's objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered and voted upon, and, if approved by a majority of all the members elected to that House, it shall be a law.

(C) If the Governor returns the bill under clause (A), the General Assembly shall reconsider and vote upon the approval of the bill before the final adjournment of the next regular session of the General Assembly that follows the regular or special session in which the bill was originally passed. If the House in which the bill originated does not approve the bill under clause (B), the other House is not required to reconsider and vote upon the approval of the bill. If, after voting, either House fails to approve the bill within this time, the veto is sustained.

(D) In the event of a veto after final adjournment of a session

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1 of the General Assembly, such bill shall be returned by the
 2 Governor to the House in which it originated on the first day
 3 that the General Assembly is in session after such
 4 adjournment, which House shall proceed in the same manner
 5 as with a bill vetoed before adjournment. The bill must be
 6 reconsidered and voted upon within the time set out in clause
 7 (C). If such bill is not so returned, it shall be a law
 8 notwithstanding such veto.

9 (3) ~~He~~ **The Governor** may refuse to sign or veto such bill in
 10 which event it shall become a law without ~~his~~ **the Governor's**
 11 signature on the eighth day after presentment to the Governor.

12 (b) Every bill presented to the Governor which is signed by ~~him~~ **the**
 13 **Governor** or on which ~~he~~ **the Governor** fails to act within said seven
 14 days after presentment shall be filed with the Secretary of State within
 15 ten days of presentment. The failure to so file shall not prevent such a
 16 bill from becoming a law.

17 (c) In the event a bill is passed over the Governor's veto, such bill
 18 shall be filed with the Secretary of State without further presentment to
 19 the Governor, provided that, in the event of such passage over the
 20 Governor's veto in the next succeeding General Assembly, the passage
 21 shall be deemed to have been the action of the General Assembly
 22 which initially passed such bill.

23 (d) **Notwithstanding subsection (a), a bill that increases state tax**
 24 **rates or establishes a new state tax does not become law over the**
 25 **veto of the Governor unless two-thirds of the members elected to**
 26 **each House approve the bill after reconsideration.**

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